

## CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

## INFORMATION REPORT

This Document contains information affecting the National Defense of the United States, within the meaning of Title 18, Sections 793 and 794, of the U.S. Code, as amended. Its transmission or revelation of its contents to or receipt by an unauthorized person is prohibited by law. The reproduction of this form is prohibited.

SECRET  
SECURITY INFORMATION

25X1

COUNTRY Korea

SUBJECT 1. POW Camps in North Korea  
2. Movement of Prisoners to the Soviet Union

DATE OF INFO. [REDACTED]

PLACE ACQUIRED [REDACTED]

REPORT [REDACTED]

DATE DISTR. 27 April 1953

NO. OF PAGES 3

REQUIREMENT NO. RD

REFERENCES 25X1

This is UNEVALUATED Information

THE SOURCE EVALUATIONS IN THIS REPORT ARE DEFINITIVE.  
THE APPRAISAL OF CONTENT IS TENTATIVE.  
(FOR KEY SEE REVERSE)

25X1

POW Camp at YE-062993

1. From May to July 1952, a POW camp with more than 1,000 POW's, all American soldiers, was at YC-062993, near Pyoktong (N 40-38, E 125-26) (YF-0600).<sup>1</sup> The American soldiers included a major general and many other high-ranking officers. The camp was in a two-story building, which looked like a school building. The roof of the building was covered with a red cloth about 3 meters wide with large writing on it in white paint. The camp was guarded by one platoon of North Korean army soldiers. The guarding was not strict but the prisoners had made no attempts to escape. The only apparent work the prisoners did was to repair air-raid damage in groups of about 10 or 20. Villagers in the area stated that many POW's had died in the spring of 1952 because of the lack of medicine, food, and decent living conditions. Most of the deaths were the result of epidemic diseases. In early May 1952, eight POW's passed through Pyoktong. Later the same day four POW's passed through Pyoktong. Each group of men was guarded by one North Korean army soldier armed with a sub-machine gun. One of these POW's wore United States Army fatigue pants but the others wore old North Korean army uniforms and headgear. All 12 POW's had long hair.

DPMO review completed.

SECRET

RETURN TO ARCHIVES & RECORDS CENTER  
IMMEDIATELY AFTER USE  
JTB BOX

STATE	X	ARMY	X	NAVY	X	AIR	X	FBI		AEC					
-------	---	------	---	------	---	-----	---	-----	--	-----	--	--	--	--	--

25X1

118-103

118103

373

SECRET

- 2 -

25X1

POW Camp at XE-874801

2. In late December 1952 a POW camp with approximately 500 white and colored United Nations POW's was in the vicinity of XE-874801, near Ch'ang-ni (N 40-27, E 125-12) (XE-8780).<sup>2</sup> The prisoners were housed in six wooden buildings with tile roofs. Each building was 10 meters long, 6 meters wide, and 3 meters high. The POW's arose at 6 a.m. They had breakfast at 6:30 a.m., lunch at 1 p.m., and dinner at 7 p.m. Their rations included rice, millet, bean curd, dried fish, and vegetables. They were given a physical examination approximately every 5 days. Approximately 50 Chinese Communist troops guarded this camp.

American POW's in the Hamhung Area

3. In late August 1952, approximately 100 American POW's were working in a tunnel in the Hamhung (N 39-54, E 127-32) (CV-7517) area.<sup>3</sup> The prisoners, wearing old North Korean army uniforms, were loading rocks into hand-carts under the supervision of North Korean army guards. They appeared underfed and weak.

POW Camp at YD-355214

4. In October 1952 a POW camp with between 1,500 and 2,000 ROK POW's was at YD-355214, in the former Sosong-ni People's School in Sosong-ni (N 39-01, E 125-43) (YD-3522).<sup>4</sup> This camp was in Kirim-ni (N 39-02, E 125-45) (YD-3824), P'yongyang, until July 1952.<sup>5</sup> The camp was in a two-story, brick building and was surrounded by a barbed wire fence. The camp was guarded by approximately 40 North Korean army guards. One guard was posted at each corner of the fence and there were several roving guards in the camp. Contact of prisoners with the outside was strictly regulated and no civilian was allowed to enter the camp. Guarding within the camp was not strict and the POW's were not obedient to the guards. When the guards gave orders to the POW's the POW's pretended not to hear the orders. No disciplinary action was taken by the guards. The POW's were required to go outside the camp in groups of 20 to 30 to repair damage after an air raid. The work details were guarded by four or five soldiers. If a POW became thirsty when on a work detail, he was allowed to go to a villager's house for water, accompanied by a guard. When working outside the camp or on the streets, the prisoners were often given cigarettes or food by the villagers. These were the only outside contacts permitted by the guards.

POW Camp at YD-369233

5. On 8 December 1952 approximately 500 ROK POW's were being held in a former school building, approximately 70 meters long and 10 meters wide, at YD-369223, near P'yongyang.<sup>6</sup> The prisoners worked in groups of 70 at a time in the vicinity of the building cleaning up the rubble after United Nations bombings. They wore blue pants, olive drab coats, and North Korean army caps without insignia.

POW Camp at Sunan (N 39-12, E 125-41) (YD-3242)

6. On 8 December 1952, approximately 600 ROK POW's were in a camp on the northern edge of Sunan.<sup>7</sup> The prisoners were dressed similarly to those in the above mentioned POW camp at YD-369223, near P'yongyang. They repaired roads and collected bricks from destroyed buildings in the area.

SECRET

25X1

SECRET

- 3 -

Movement of North Korean Prisoners to the Soviet Union

7. In mid-September 1952 by order of the North Korean Labor Party, an estimated 20,000 prisoners were moved from various prisons in North Korea to Unggi (N 42-21, E 130-24) (FB-1589). These prisoners included persons convicted of political crimes against the North Korean government, civilians who were kidnapped in South Korea during the North Korean occupation, and an estimated 6,000 ROK POW's. In early October these prisoners were sent to the Ural industrial area in the Soviet Union as laborers.

Comments

1. [redacted] According to FEC Intelligence Summary Number 3649, 5 September 1952, POW Camp Number 4 at YE-062995, Pyoktong, was listed among the names of POW camps in North Korea submitted by the Communist delegation to the United Nations Command Armistice Delegation on 17 July 1952.
2. This is possibly the same camp [redacted] reported at XE-877796, near Ch'ang-ni. Another American agency reported that on 4 November 1952 a POW camp with 800 white and colored United Nations POW's was in a wooden building at XE-874801. According to FEC Intelligence Summary Number 3649, 5 September 1952, POW Camp Number 1 at XE-87897, Ch'ang-ni, was listed among the names of POW camps in North Korea submitted by the Communist delegation to the United Nations Command Armistice Delegation on 17 July 1952.
- [redacted]
4. This is probably the same camp as the 5 Independent Inclosure of the No. 8 POW Camp [redacted]. It is possibly the same camp reported at YD-353213, near Sosong-ni [redacted]. According to FEC Intelligence Summary Number 3649, 5 September 1952, POW Camp Number 11 in the same area was listed among the names of POW camps in North Korea submitted by the Communist delegation to the United Nations Command Armistice Delegation on 17 July 1952.
5. [redacted], POW Camp Number 5, with 1,200 ROK POW's, was in the former Kirim-ni Primary School in Kirim-ni, P'yongyang, in mid-June 1952.
6. Another American agency reported that on 23 November 1952 a POW camp with 100 ROK prisoners was at YD-368222. This is probably the same camp.
7. [redacted] on 30 September 1952 a POW camp with 3,000 ROK prisoners was at YD-327412, east of Sunan. [redacted] in late July a POW Camp with 1,000 ROK POW's was at the site of the former Sunan High School. According to FEC Intelligence Summary Number 3649, 5 September 1952, POW Camp Number 13, Sunan, was listed among the names of POW camps in North Korea submitted by the Communist delegation to the United Nations Command Armistice Delegation on 17 July 1952.

SECRET